

# March Climate Summary

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
GRAND RAPIDS MI

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March began with a significant winter storm. It turned out that, that snow storm was one of the heaviest snowfalls, in the shortest period of time, for Southwest Lower Michigan this season. The heavy snow was north of a line from Little Sable point to Mount Pleasant. Up to 18 inches of snow fell near Clare. There as 8 to 12 inches across the remainder of that area. Almost all of the snow fell in the early morning hours Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Between interstate 96 and route 10, 1 to 3 inches of snow accumulated. Over areas between interstate 94 and there were area of heavy snow, freezing rain and sleet.

A weak Alberta Clipper system produced the last significant snowfall of the month during the early morning hours of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Generally 1 to 3 inches of snow fell across Southwest Lower Michigan. A brief cool down followed this system for the 7<sup>th</sup> as a Canadian high pressure area moved across Lower Michigan.

A major warm up commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. From the 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>, high temperatures rose well into the 60°s for the first time this calendar year in Southwest Lower Michigan. A very strong spring storm brought heavy rainfall and severe thunderstorms to Southwest Lower Michigan on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Muskegon had a record rainfall event ahead of the warm front. 2.92 inches of rain fell, mostly during the early morning hours of the 13<sup>th</sup>. The storm total rainfall was 3.41 inches. The severe thunderstorms brought 2 inch hail to the Kalamazoo area around 9:30 Monday morning. Following the cold front, very strong winds brought back cold weather to the Area. The highest reported wind gust was 55 MPH at the National Weather Service office in Grand Rapids, just after 2 PM.

Temperatures remained near to below normal from the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>. A blocking high pressure system over Greenland forced the storm track south to near the gulf coast from the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. The next storm system passed well south of Michigan during the time from the 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. That brought some light snow or mixed rain and snow showers to the area. Snowfall was mostly less than an inch across the area. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, as the coldest air moved through, afternoon convection produced some reports of hail that covered the ground to as deep as a half inch in the Grandville area around 5 PM. Hail on the 25<sup>th</sup> was generally less than a half inch in diameter.

Cool weather then persisted until the 27<sup>th</sup> when a slow warm up began. This allowed warmer air to return to Southwest Lower Michigan as the Canadian air was replaced with air from the plains. Highs finally rose to around 50 degrees from the 27<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

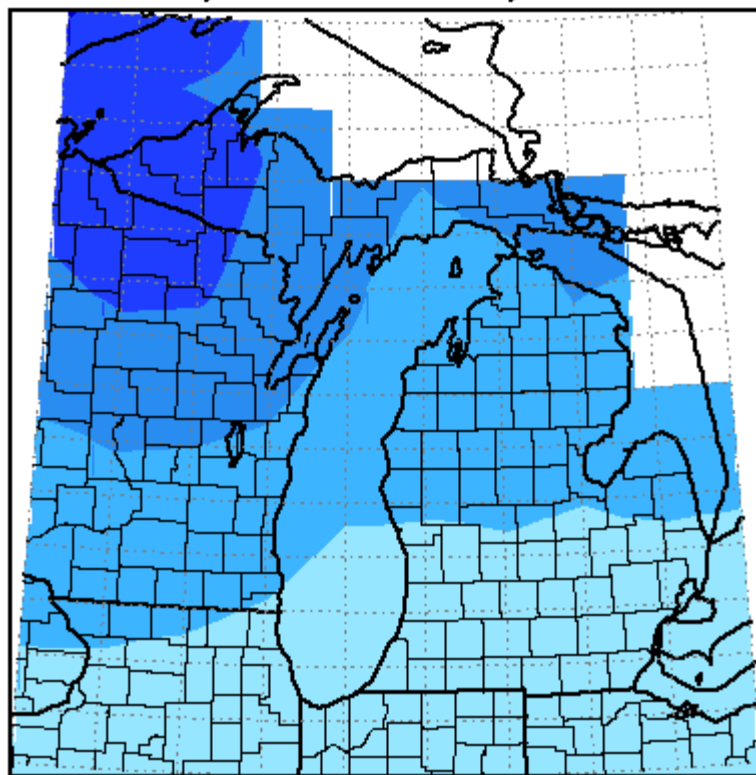
A strong pacific storm heading toward the great lakes on the 30<sup>th</sup> brought strong southerly winds to the area. Coupled with plenty of sunshine, highs got into the mid to upper 60°s across the area. As the storm

system moved through the Great Lakes on the 31<sup>st</sup>, showers with a few afternoon thunderstorms preceded the cold front. Low temperatures on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> were well up in the 50°s across most of the area.

**March 2006**

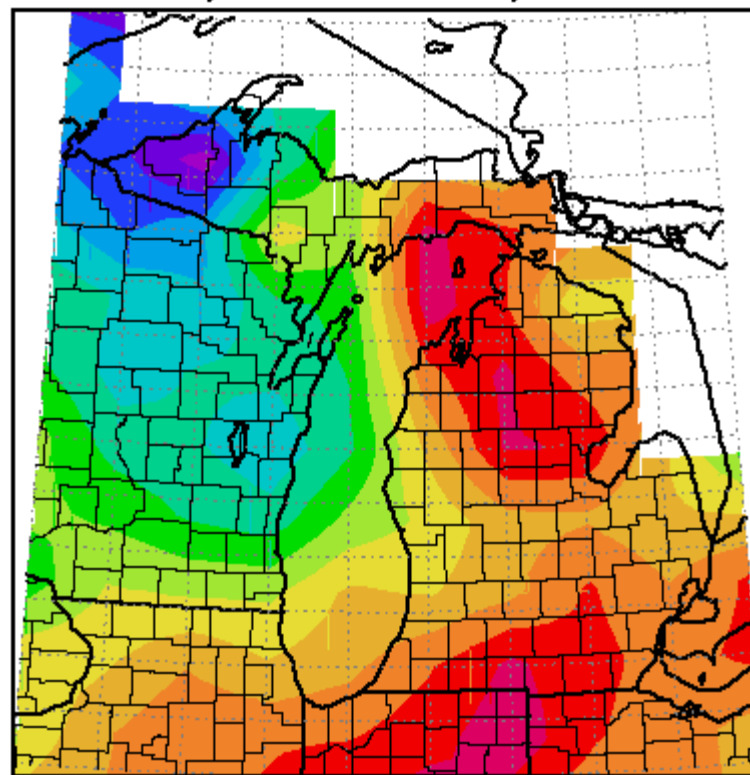
| <b>Site:</b>        | <b>Temperature</b> | <b>Precipitation</b> | <b>Snowfall</b>    |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Grand Rapids</b> | <b>36.5° F</b>     | <b>3.31 Inches</b>   | <b>3.3 Inches</b>  |
| <b>Normal</b>       | <b>34.6° F</b>     | <b>2.59 Inches</b>   | <b>9.0 Inches</b>  |
| <b>Departure</b>    | <b>1.9° F</b>      | <b>0.72 Inches</b>   | <b>-5.7 Inches</b> |
| <b>Lansing</b>      | <b>35.7° F</b>     | <b>2.64 Inches</b>   | <b>2.3 Inches</b>  |
| <b>Normal</b>       | <b>33.9° F</b>     | <b>2.33 Inches</b>   | <b>8.7 Inches</b>  |
| <b>Departure</b>    | <b>1.8° F</b>      | <b>0.31 Inches</b>   | <b>-6.4 Inches</b> |
| <b>Muskegon</b>     | <b>35.9° F</b>     | <b>5.71 Inches</b>   | <b>5.3 Inches</b>  |
| <b>Normal</b>       | <b>34.0° F</b>     | <b>2.36 Inches</b>   | <b>11.1 Inches</b> |
| <b>Departure</b>    | <b>1.9° F</b>      | <b>3.35 Inches</b>   | <b>-5.8 Inches</b> |

Average Temperature in Degrees F  
February 1, 2006 to February 29, 2006



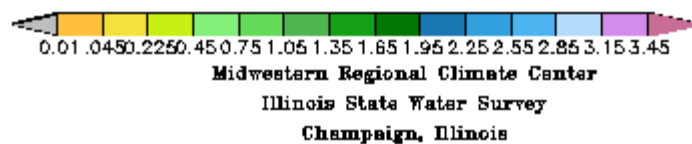
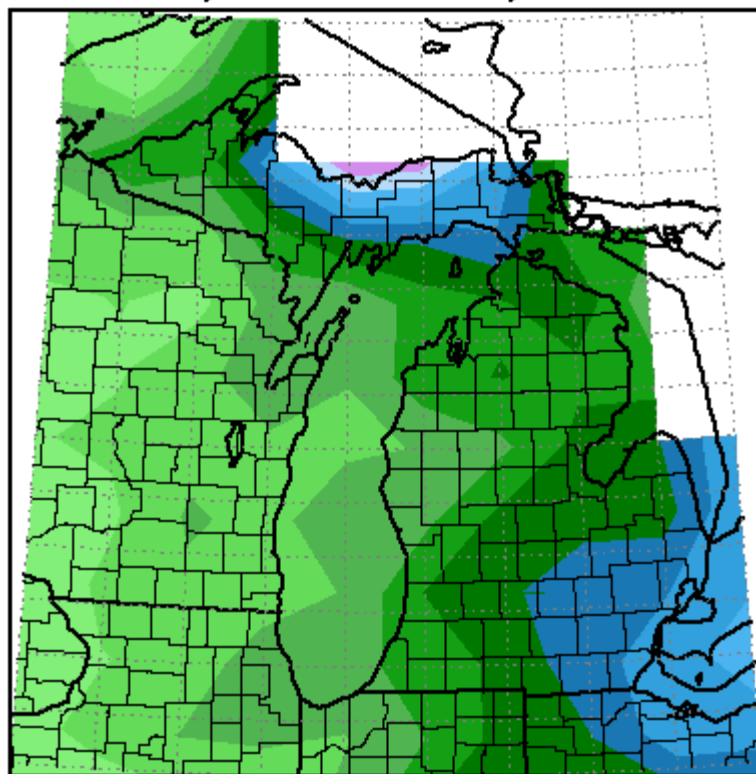
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Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F  
February 1, 2006 to February 29, 2006

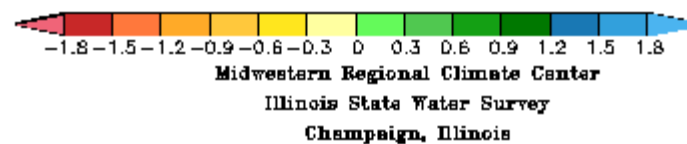
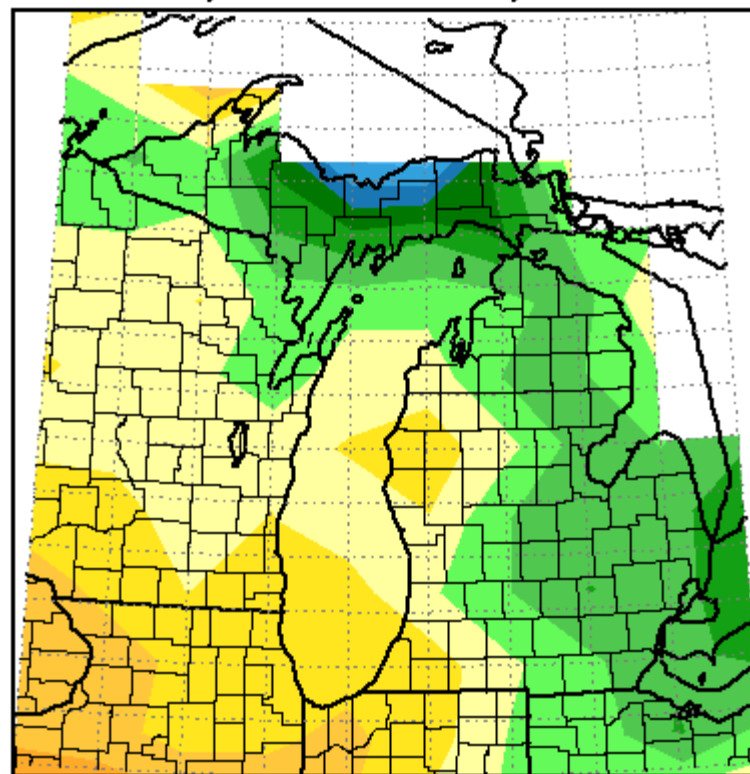


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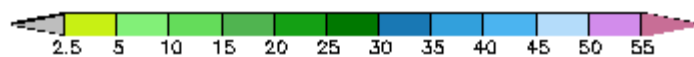
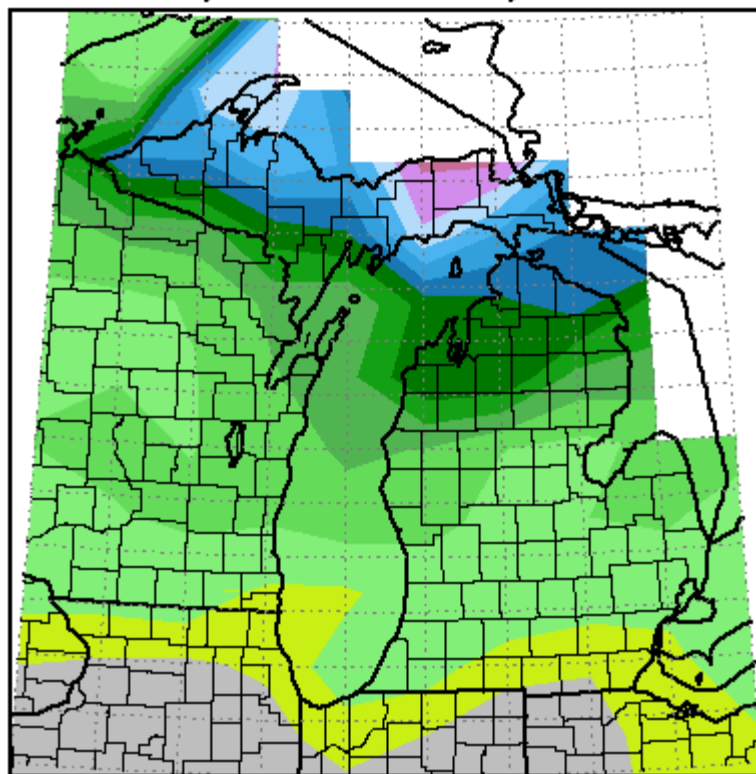
Total Precipitation in Inches  
February 1, 2006 to February 29, 2006



Total Precipitation Departure from Mean in Inches  
February 1, 2006 to February 29, 2006



**Total Snowfall in Inches  
February 1, 2006 to February 29, 2006**

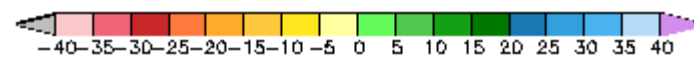
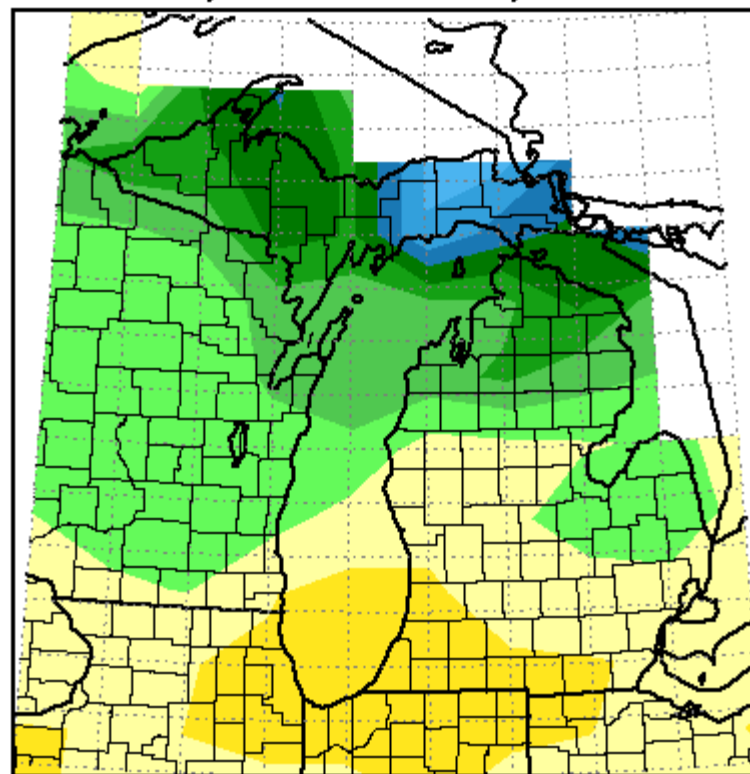


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**Total Snowfall Departure from Mean in Inches  
February 1, 2006 to February 29, 2006**



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